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SENATE MEMORIAL 29
47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005
INTRODUCED BY
Mary Jane M Garcia

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
STUDY THE STATUTES GOVERNING THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF CHILD
ABUSE.

WHEREAS, child abuse victimizes the most vulnerable, most
dependent and most innocent New Mexicans and generates
emotional outrage in communities; and

WHEREAS, that outrage and a community's desire that
justice be served can put pressure on the criminal justice
system; and

WHEREAS, the more heinous the crime, the more critical it
becomes that state law be vigilant in ensuring that the rights
of the accused are not sacrificed in the pursuit of justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate interim legislative

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1 committee be requested to study the statutes relating to the
2 criminal offense of child abuse to determine whether the
3 statutes are serving the best interests of New Mexico children;
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interim committee
6 specifically review the definition of criminal negligence and
7 its applicability in child abuse offenses; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, during its study, the interim
9 committee solicit the professional opinions of prosecutors,
10 criminal defense attorneys, victim advocates, family members of
11 victims and any other appropriate parties; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
14 council for assignment to the appropriate interim legislative
15 committee.